

A. In the Specification:

A.1. On page 11 bridging onto page 12, please cancel the two consecutive paragraphs starting with "The alloy material ..." and ending with "VSi₂, WSi₂, and ZnSi₂" and replace it with the following two paragraphs:

The alloy material means a compound represented by the chemical formula $M_xM'_yLi_z$, where M' is one or more element other than the element Li and the element M, x is a number not less than 0 and y, z denote a value not less than 0. The metal elements encompass semiconductor elements, such as B, Si or As. Specified examples of the alloy material include metals Mg, B, Al, Ga, In, Si, Sn, Pb, Sb, Bi, Cd, Ag, Zn, Hf, Zr and Y, alloy compounds thereof, Li-Al, Li-Al-M, where M is one or more selected from the group consisting of 2A, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B, and 5B⁰ group transition metal elements, AlSb and CuMgSb.

As elements that can be alloyed with lithium, typical elements of the group 4A 3B, preferably Si or Sn, more preferably Si, are used. Specified examples include compounds represented by M_xSi and M_xMn , where M denotes one or more metal element excluding Si and Sn, specifically, SiB₄, SiB₆, Mg₂Si, Mg₂Sn, Ni₂Si, TiSi₂, MoSi₂, CoSi₂, NiSi₂, CaSi₂, CrSi₂, Cu₅Si, FeSi₂, MnSi₂, NbSi₂, TaSi₂, VSi₂, WSi₂ and ZnSi₂.